

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
December 22, 2004
Conference Call

Members Present: Alan Todd, President
Helen Jones, Vice President
Arlene Brown
Spencer Ellis
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
Reed Gardner
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Youth Leadership Advisory: Ryan Ells
David Largent
Leif Udem

Members Absent: Emily Horton

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Hank Uhden, Technical Services

Guests: Ken Nelson
Gil Waibel

The meeting was called to order by President Todd at 7:10 a.m.

Conservation District Bill

Most members had visited with the conservation districts in there area. Bobbie Frank clarified some concerns they had. John Etchepare supports the bill if this is what the districts want. Bobbie indicated they had taken a vote among the districts, and they had voted in favor of going forward with the bill. Grant also is in support if this is what the districts want. He has concerns about the advisory boards as being an additional level, but the Conservation District Board of Supervisors oversee the special district and they are landowners. **Brown made a motion for the Board of Agriculture to give full support to this bill. Jones seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Seed Lab

Todd received a letter from Russ Zimmer. Hank reviewed the concerns Mr. Zimmer had expressed in the letter. Ken Nelson does not have any concerns with the way the Board has gone forward with the rule process. He explained the rules are out for comments and felt his

letter was to be accepted as simply comments on the rules. Hank asked how the Board wanted the Department to respond to the comments received. Gil Waibel said some of the prices used in comparison Mr. Zimmer used with surrounding states were not correct. He explained the differences and said Nebraska prices will probably be similar to ours after they go through the pricing review slated in that state. Our prices are very similar to those of South Dakota. We do receive several samples from Utah because Utah is so backlogged and the process there takes too long. Gil has seen a real increase in the sampling Wyoming is doing. He feels that indicates faith in Wyoming sampling and also Wyoming's prices are not too high. The Board would like Hank and Gil to work up a response addressing Mr. Zimmer's letter. Ken suggested the letter not go to Zimmer. The letter should respond to the Governor and the Management Council. The Board did consider these comments. The Board would also like a copy of the letter when it is sent.

Proposed letter to Ann Veneman

The Board wanted the draft letter to be condensed some and to emphasize the premature press releases. They wanted to eliminate the second paragraph. They wanted to include the fact they did not want individual packing plants to do their own testing for BSE.

Milk Program

The 2004 supplemental feed program ended October 31. The final shipments will be finished by December 3. The leftover 65 loads were given to the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Johnson and Sheridan county were included in the program. Big Horn, Weston and Hot Springs counties were not ever given the drought status. The Department asked for the Board's approval to distribute the remaining feed to Johnson and Sheridan counties based on the number of head, not the number of producers. The deadline is shorter than proposed; maybe one to two weeks. Lois VanMARK fully supports this decision. Alan is concerned that this decision may not be in compliance with USDA. He doesn't want this to jeopardize our position in the future. **Jones made a motion to have the Department proceed with the distribution of milk to Johnson and Sheridan counties and if the amount distributed to each producer is out of kilter with the first distribution, the Department will come back to the Board. Otto seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** Alan feels that the Department is responsible to send 1099's to the producers. Justin Williams will find the answer.

Conservation District Appointment

Ellis made a motion to approve the appointment of Rick Six as a replacement for Bill Hauns resignation to the remaining rural term on the Washakie County Conservation District Board. Gardner seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Todd, President

Date